

Appl. No. 10/601,351
Amdt. dated December 1, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

Amendment(s) to the Drawings:

The attached 6 replacement sheets include changes to Figs. 1-7 and replace original sheets 1-6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-24 and 26-30 were pending in this application. Claims 14-19 have been withdrawn. Claim 20 has been amended. Claim 21 has been cancelled. No claims have been added. Hence, claims 20, 22-24, and 26-30 are pending after entry of the amendments presented herein. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,391,904 to Asami, *et al.* (hereinafter "Asami").

Claims 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,342,7944 to Wei, *et al.* (hereinafter "Wei").

Claims 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wei, in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,286,518 to Cain, *et al.* (hereinafter "Cain").

Claims 24 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wei in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 3,808,475 to Buelow, *et al.* (hereinafter "Buelow").

Claims 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wei, in view of Buelow, and further in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,313,079 to Brasen, *et al.* (hereinafter "Brasen").

Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 21. No new matter has been added.

Figs 1-7 have been amended to add "BACKGROUND" as required by the Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of all claims since the cited references do not teach all claim limitations, either explicitly or impliedly. Claim 20 includes, "a connection between a drain of the p-channel field effect transistor and a drain of the n-channel

field effect transistor formed in said same layer of polysilicon.” Asami does not teach this limitation. Asami clearly teaches that the “polysilicon layer 52 is connected to aluminum wiring ... for connecting the drain regions 22 and 24 of the respective transistors” (Col. 8, ll. 27-31). Further, the office action states that “connection/gate 52 *may* connect the drains of the next stage transistor adjacent to gate 51” (emphasis added). This is tantamount to an admission that Asami does not teach the limitation. Thus, claim 20 is believed to be allowable, at least for this reason.

Moreover, the Applicant has amended claim 20 to include, “wherein the polysilicon comprising said gate is coplanar with the polysilicon comprising said connection between said drain of the p-channel field effect transistor and said drain of the n-channel field effect transistor,” which was previously examined with respect to claim 21. Nowhere does Asami state that the two polysilicon regions are coplanar, and Fig. 11 clearly shows this not to be the case. Thus, claim 20 is believed to be allowable for this additional reason.

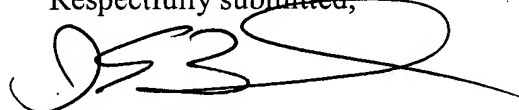
The remaining claims depend from claim 20 and are believed to be allowable, at least for the reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments
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